

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improved Means for Connecting Articles Together in Ranks

We, NEW EQUIPMENT LIMITED a company organised under the laws of Great British and Northern Ireland, of Croxdale in the county of Durham, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us and the method by which it is to be performed to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

10 This invention relates to a device for joining two or more articles, such as chairs, tables or other articles of furniture together hereinafter referred to as "chairs", in a rank or row.

15 According to the invention, there is provided a device for joining two chairs comprising two sockets or attachments in alignment, one on each of the chairs to be joined, the said sockets each having a bore open at both ends and a latching-face remote from the entry to said bore, a connecting member, the ends of which each have a male member adapted to enter said bore and a latch for engagement with the latching face of one said socket. Said connecting member may comprise a tube, a rod loosely fitting said tube having a head or latch at each end larger than the bore of said tube which heads will each, after being slid through their respective sockets, drop and engage the latching face of said socket. Said sockets may be short lengths of tube for attachment each to a leg of a chair. If desired two or more pairs of sockets may be provided between the pair of adjacent chairs, a connecting member being provided for each pair of sockets.

35 One form of the invention will now be more particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawing wherein:—

40 Figs. 1 and 2 show a connecting member and latch combination for a device according to the invention with the latch in a central

or neutral position and in a latching position respectively and

Fig. 3 shows two chairs joined by the device according to the invention.

Referring to the drawing, the device has a connecting member comprising a tube 2, 11½ inches long and having an external diameter of 5/8 of an inch. Two collars 4 constituting stops are fitted to the tube 2½ inches from each end and define male members at the ends of the tube for entry into sockets 6. A bar 8, 11½ inches long and 1/8 of an inch smaller in diameter than the bore of the tube lies loosely within the tube and fixed to each end of the bar is a head 10, ½ of an inch long and 5/8 of an inch in diameter forming a latch.

As can be seen more clearly in Fig. 3, the sockets 6, which are formed from tubes, are fixed to adjacent rear legs 12 of two chairs on a horizontal transverse axis in any convenient manner. Each socket has an internal diameter of 5/8 of an inch and is 2½ inches long.

In operation, after the sockets 6 have been fixed to the chairs to be connected, the ends of the connecting member are inserted into the sockets. When each end is fully inserted its head 10 has passed completely through the socket and, being no longer supported coaxially with the connecting member by the socket drops and latches the connecting member to the socket. By this means, the two chairs are thus connected in a row.

It is possible, of course, using similar means, to connect further chairs to the two already connected.

When it is desired to disconnect a chair the head is lifted upwardly until it is coincident with the internal diameter of the tube, the connecting member is thus unlatched and may be then withdrawn through the tube.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A device for joining two chairs comprising two sockets or attachments in alignment, one on each of the chairs to be joined, the said sockets each having a bore open at both ends and a latching-face remote from the entry to said bore, a connecting member, the ends of which each have a male member adapted to enter said bore and a latch for engagement with the latching face of one said socket.
2. A device according to Claim 1 wherein said latches are formed on opposite ends of a single member.
3. A device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the connecting member comprises a tube, a rod loosely fitting said tube having a head or latch at each end larger than the bore of said tube, which heads will each, after being slid through their respective sockets, drop and engage the latching face of said socket.
4. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the connecting member has projecting portions forming stops and against which the entry faces of said sockets can abut.
5. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said male members are arranged to slidably fit the bores of said sockets.
6. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein each socket comprises a length of tube.
7. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein two or more pairs of sockets are provided on the pair of chairs, a connecting member being provided for each pair of sockets.
8. A device for joining two chairs arranged and adapted for use and operation substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawing.
9. A chair having one or more sockets for use with a device according to any one of the preceding claims.
10. A connecting member for use with a device according to any one of Claims 1 to 8.

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Fig. 1.

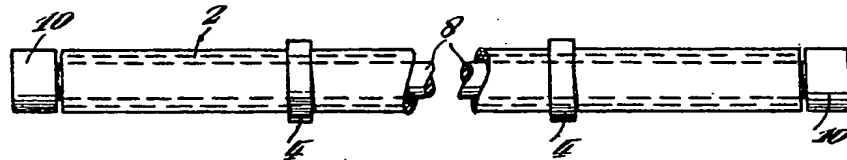


Fig. 2.

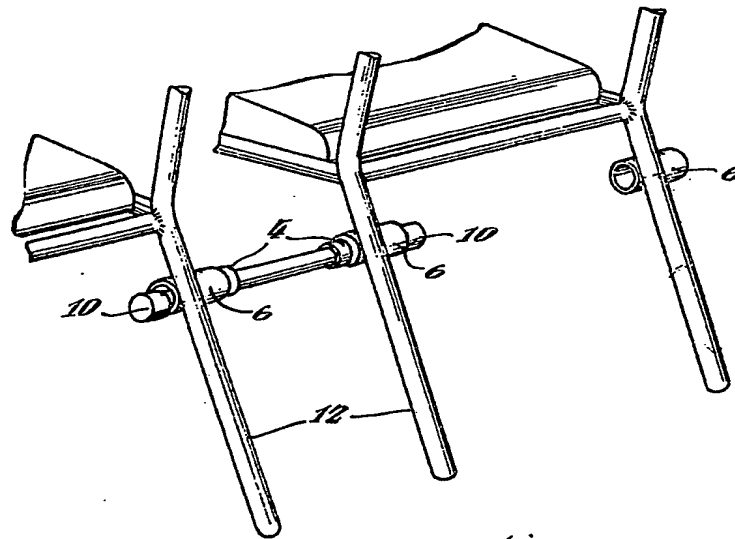
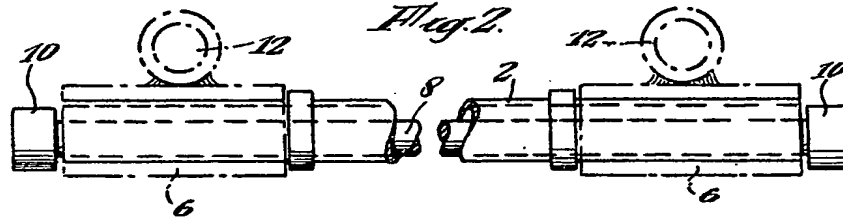


Fig. 3.